

TOURIGNY DENTAL

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Testimony in Opposition to LD 1349, An Act To Increase Transparency in Dental Billing

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Dr. Dean Tourigny. I am a general dentist and I work in Biddeford.

I am writing in opposition to **LD 1349, An Act to Increase Transparency in Dental Billing**.

The pandemic of the last year inflicted great hardships on the people of Maine. Those who died or have ongoing morbidity suffered a price which cannot be compared.

On the issue of this particular bill, which seeks to place a unique and specific burden on the dental field, I strongly object. Dentistry in Maine took an economic hit over and above many professions. Our offices were closed for over two months. When we were allowed to reopen PPE was scarce and expensive. The State of Maine also chose to not assist dentistry in procuring needed PPE. Now at a time when our supply chains are still vulnerable and our costs continue to climb, we are singled out to inform the public that treatment may be more expensive. The bill appears to have no purpose except to point out to the public the self-evident information that providing dental care during a pandemic is costly.

Most everything in this pandemic has experienced shortages with increased costs. Will we saddle everyone in society to provide notice that a pandemic may be costly. I for one hope that never happens.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dean Tourigny

Dean Tourigny, DDS PA